

Oregon coast, as few present day ornithologists have reported it. While on my vacation at Netarts Bay I found a flock of seven on September 12, 1922. These birds were sitting quietly along the edge of the water of a mud flat. They were very wild and difficult of approach, but I succeeded in collecting one before they got entirely out of reach.

*Heteractitis incanus.* Wandering Tattler. From my reading of Oregon literature I had somehow gained the impression that this bird was a somewhat rare species in Oregon. I have, however, found it in suitable locations on almost every visit that I have made to the coast district. I have seen this bird at the following places: Netarts, May 1, August 22, and November 19, 1921; Bar View, November 22, 1921; Cannon Beach, February 3, and April 27, 1922; and Seal Rocks, July 22, 1922. I have never noted more than one or two of the birds at a time, but they seem to be found on every rocky point suitable for their needs throughout a large part of the year.

*Squatarola squatarola.* Black-bellied Plover. On January 21, 1923, two of these birds were found on the beach at Newport. They were wild and difficult of approach, but one was finally secured. So far as I know this is the first winter record of this species for the Oregon coast.

*Aphriza virgata.* Surf-bird. I have observed this bird on four different occasions on the Oregon coast. My first record was on November 19, 1921, when a flock of about twenty-five was found on the rocks north of Netarts Bay. These birds were quite tame and flew about on the rocks without paying much attention to me. At Cannon Beach on February 3, 1922, four were noted and two more at the same place on April 27, 1922. On January 21, 1923, two were noted feeding about the rocks of the North Jetty at the entrance to Yaquina Bay. They were in company with two Black Turnstones at the time the observation was made.—IRA N. GABRIELSON, *Portland, Oregon, March 15, 1923.*

**Abnormal Eggs of the Coot.**—The following note is occasioned by Dr. Alexander Wetmore's article (*Condor*, xix, 1917, pp. 65, 66) in which he figures and describes an abnormal egg of the Coot (*Fulica americana*). Dr. Wetmore's deduction that the peculiar markings and color of the specimen were caused by abnormal conditions surround-

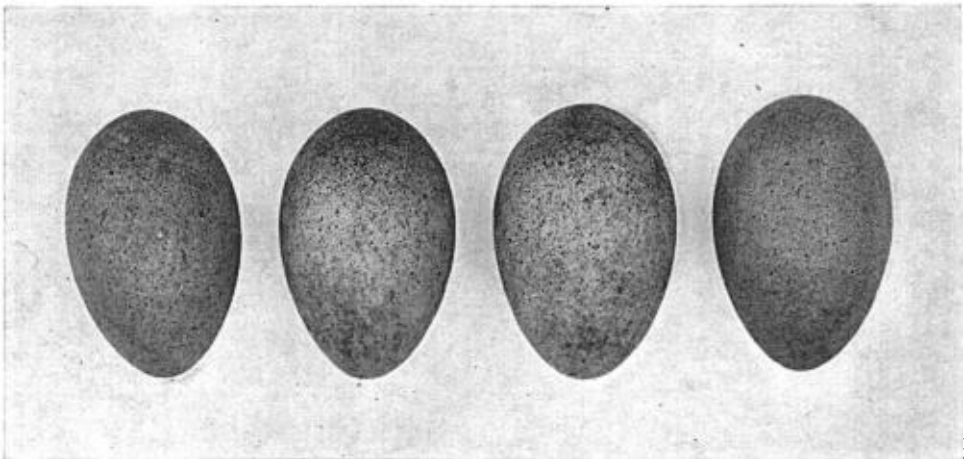


Fig. 34. ABNORMAL EGGS OF THE COOT.

ing the parent while the egg was in the oviduct may be correct in this instance, but in view of the following data it would seem better to consider the egg an example of a rare type sometimes laid by the species.

At Buena Vista Lake, California, on June 21, 1922, Mr. Ralph Hoffmann brought me an abnormal egg of this species, together with the information that there were three more of the same type in the nest. An immediate expedition was organized and the rest collected. Probably more would have been laid but the risk of having the

nest swamped by a sudden wind storm was too great to permit of taking any chances through delay. These four eggs are in general similar to the one described by Dr. Wetmore, save that the general color is uniform throughout. It varies a little in the individual specimens, ranging from avellaneous in the lightest specimen to between avellaneous and wood brown in the darkest. The accompanying cut shows the distribution of the spotting which varies from purplish gray to black. These eggs are the only departures from the normal which have been seen among the many hundreds of mudhens' eggs observed each year during the three summers of work on this lake.

The possibility that all four of these eggs are the result of an abnormal nervous or physical strain on the parent is so remote as to be negligible. While such a condition as that surrounding Dr. Wetmore's bird might possibly result in an extraordinary egg, it is extremely doubtful that more than one would be produced before laying was suppressed altogether.—A. J. VAN ROSSEM, *Pasadena, California, December 21, 1922.*

**The Alice Thrush—a Correction.**—It is with considerable chagrin that I have to report what can only be explained as a *lapsus calami* in my preliminary list of specimens taken by C. H. Young and Wm. Spreadborough at Brackendale, Lilloet, and McGilivray's Creek, British Columbia, between June 11 and September 12, 1916, in the Summary Report for the Geological Survey (Canada) for 1916, pp. 359-368. On this last page will be found under Alice's Thrush, *Hylocichla aliciae*, six specimens recorded as taken at Brackendale and Lilloet. This entry properly refers to *Hylocichla ustulata*; the subspecies was not determined, but there is not the slightest doubt of the incorrectness of the record as it stands.—P. A. TAVERNER, *Ottawa, Canada, February 26, 1923.*

## EDITORIAL NOTES AND NEWS

It may not be amiss for American ornithologists to recall for a moment that "we", each and all of us, share in the ownership of the largest and most valuable collection of birds in the New World, namely, that contained in the Division of Birds, United States National Museum. More systematic work relating to America has been based on that collection than, perhaps, upon all the other American collections combined. We should, and doubtless most of us do, feel a just pride of ownership and achievement in these matters. Furthermore, all working ornithologists must feel a satisfaction in that a man of broad caliber is acting curator of our National collection—Dr. Charles W. Richmond, much of whose time and energy for years have been taken up with helping in the enterprises of others. Dr. Richmond's service to ornithology is enhanced by his great knowledge of the birds of the world and by his wonderful memory of the published literature in regard to them. His genial personality and his readiness to expend time in helping visitors who come to his department at Washington go to make one thankful that a man of his stamp is in executive charge of our National collection.

Messrs. Alexander Wetmore and Donald R. Dickey debarked from Honolulu on April 4 for two months exploration of the smaller islands of the North Pacific. The present

status of the famous bird colonies on Laysan Island will be looked into and efforts made to rid that island of the introduced rabbits, whose presence is inimical to the welfare of certain of the native species of birds. Studies of the birds will be aided by the movie camera in the expert hands of Mr. Dickey. We look forward to seeing the "dance of the albatrosses" vividly before us on the cinema screen before many months.

Mr. and Mrs. Chester Lamb are favorably located for a period of collecting at San Jose del Cabo, Lower California.

### MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

#### NORTHERN DIVISION

**FEBRUARY.**—The regular meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology on February 22, 1923, at 8 o'clock. President Cooper was in the chair and the following members were present: Misses Beaman, Bennet, Burk, Clough, Culver, and Thomson; Mesdames Allen, Bamford, Delport, Mead, Reygadas, Schlesinger; Messrs. Bryant, Cooper, Dixon, Evermann, Farber, Gignoux, Miller, Storer, and Swarth. Visitors were Mrs. Farber, Mrs. Thomson and Mr. Koch.